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REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the December 18, 2007 final Office Action. Claims 1-19 and 21-58 were pending, with claim 20 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. The Office Action indicates that claims 1-8, 10, 12-14, 16-18, 21-29, 33-35, 40-53 and 56 have been allowed. By this Amendment, claims 9, 11, 15, 19, 30-32, 36-39, 54, 55, 57 and 58 have been canceled, without prejudice to applicant's right to pursue them in one or more continuation applications. Accordingly, allowed claims 1-8, 10, 12-14, 16-18, 21-29, 33-35, 40-53 and 56 are the claims that remain pending upon entry of this Amendment.

Claims 9, 15, 19, 36-38, 55, 57 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Saito et al. (USP 6,618,749) in view of Nickerson (USP 6,043,904). Claims 11, 30-32, 39 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Saito in view of Nickerson and Satomi et al. (USP 5,134,501).

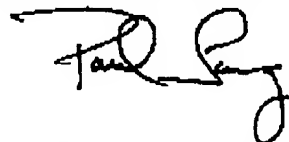
Since claims 9, 11, 15, 19, 30-32, 36-39, 54, 55, 57 and 58 have been canceled, and only allowed claims 1-8, 10, 12-14, 16-18, 21-29, 33-35, 40-53 and 56 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter and submits that the allowed claims recite subject matter which further supports patentability for reasons in addition to those identified in the Examiner's statement in the final Office Action of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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